CHAPTER 15
DISAPPEARANCE

MEL-CHAN?

NO, SHE HASN'T COME HERE...

... SHE'S GONE?

SHE WAS ASKING IF I'D HEARD ANYTHI- WAIT, MARIE!?

SFX: RUN

MASTER, I'M GOING TO GO LOOK FOR MEL!

THEN I'LL-

YOU CAN ONLY WALK FOR A SHORT TIME, SO JUST WAIT HERE!

a burden

SFX: SHOCK

GET THE CAR!

YES

OH... SO SHE DIDN'T GO THERE.

IF MEL DOES SHOW UP, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL.

COLETTE, IT SEEMS SHE DIDN'T GO TO STELLA'S.

M-MASTER...

LOOK AT THIS...

For now, sit down
YES...
COLETTE, ARE YOU OKAY!?
WHAT DO WE DO... DID MEL GET...
SHAKE
I'LL CONTACT THE POLICE AND LOOK FOR MEL IN TOWN.
COLETTE, PLEASE WAIT HERE.
OKAY...
With Mel's legs... she can't have gotten far.
haah
haah
run
Mel!
Mel!
run
run
run

But...
I have no idea where she'd be heading.
SCREECH
SHUT
MARIE...?
run
run
I HEARD MEL'S GONE...

CAN YOU THINK OF ANYWHERE SHE MIGHT GO?

I DON'T KNOW...

THEN... DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY SHE MIGHT HAVE LEFT?

Maybe it'd be best to create some distance between us.

... YOU DO.

I MADE A MISTAKE...
I DECIDED THAT IN ORDER TO KEEP THINGS CALM, I SHOULD CREATE SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US...

... DOES THAT MEAN,
YOU REALIZED MEL'S FEELINGS?
SO YOU KNEW.
YES.
MEL ASKED ME FOR ADVICE.

YOU DIDN'T JUST AVOID HER,
THINKING "SHE'S A BEASTKIN" AS AN EXCUSE...?
... I'M SORRY.
HOW CRUEL...

SSSHH
EVEN IF
YOU ARE MEL'S MASTER,
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR HURTING HER!

SLAM
VRRMM
WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
LET'S GO TO TOWN.
FOR NOW ALL WE CAN DO IS ASK PEOPLE IF THEY'VE SEEN HER.

running

HUH? THIS BEASTKIN GIRL? HAVEN'T SEEN HER.

running

LOTS OF PEOPLE GO BY HERE...

CHATTER CHATTER

running

SORRY.

dash

YOU ONLY HAVE THIS PICTURE TO GO BY...? DON'T BE RASH. YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS TO THE POLICE.

IF YOU DO SEE HER, PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE.

WHOOSH

IT'S ALREADY PAST NOON..

ONCE THE SUN SETS, IT'LL GET EVEN COLDER.

Here Ojou-sama

Thank you

Mel...

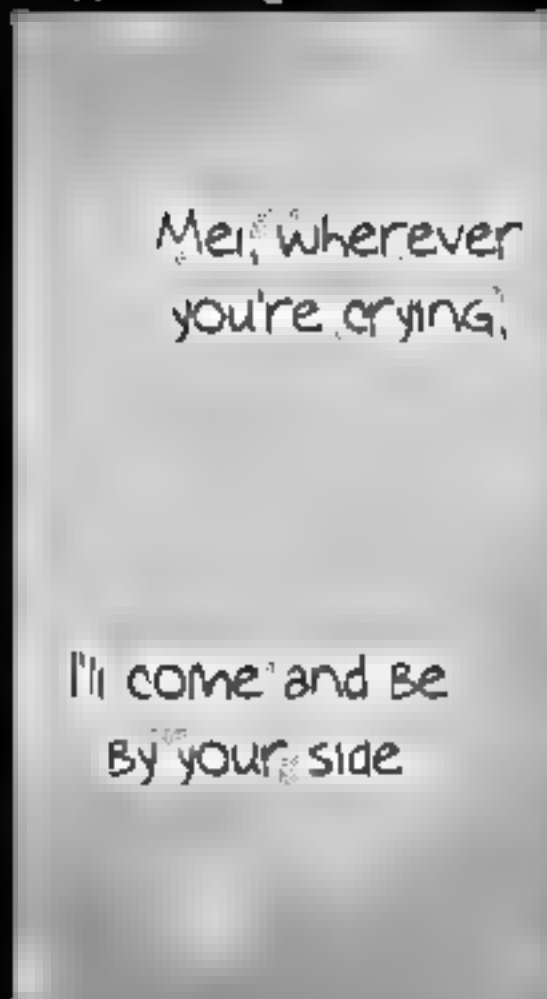
I can't give up...

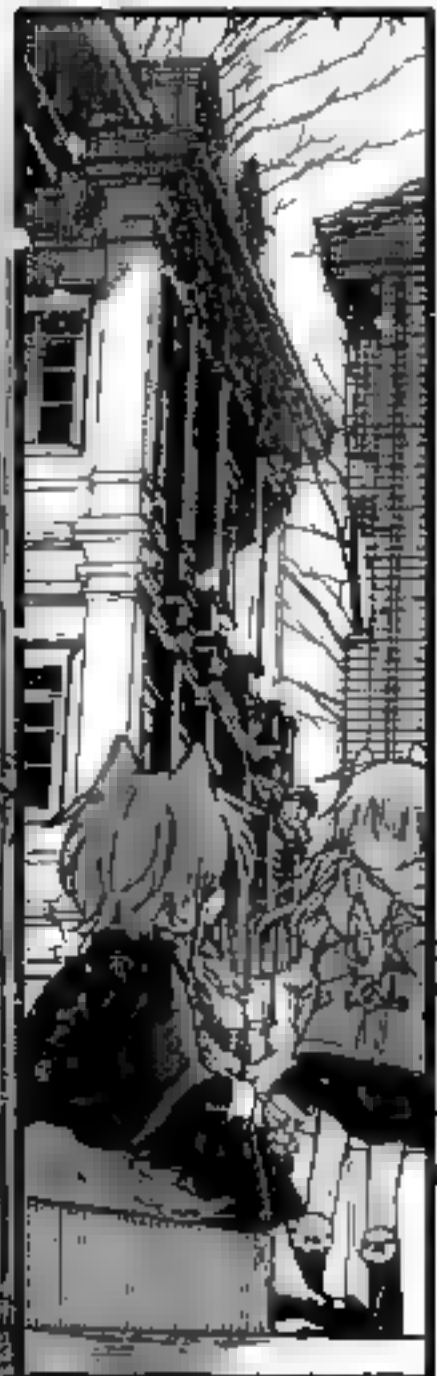
Think!

The range of places Mel can walk too shouldn't be that large.

She's been missing since morning, and with Mel's stamina, she must be tired of wa king and be resting somewhere by now.

THE PARK...
MEL!
MEL!!
haah
She's not here...
haah
Maybe this really is impossible without something to go on...
GASP

MEL'S SCENT...
sniffle
sob
Me, Mel
So you were here crying
Sensei got mad at me again
Marie, you always come and find me
Found you
I know
Mel, wherever you're crying,
I'll come and be by your side

SFX RUNNING
MEL!!
MARIE...?

MARIE, HOW...
SO YOU WERE BEHIND THE PARK.

HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING THIS WHOLE TIME?
I...WAS PLANNING ON GOING BACK TO THE INSTITUTE...

I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!

SFX HUG

ALL THE WAY THERE BY FOOT!? THERE'S NO WAY!
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYWHERE ELSE I CAN GO...
WHILE I WAS WALKING, THE POLICE FOUND ME.

You!
Beastkin

Let me see me the identification number on your neck
I'll take you back to your master.
Where is your master? Are you lost?
There've been a lot of abductions recently, so be careful
Wait! Where are you going!?
I GOT SCARED AND RAN...
I'VE BEEN HIDING HERE SINCE THEN.
shiver
She must've been cold...
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU STAY LIKE THIS.
FOR NOW, COME BACK TO MY..
N-NO!

WHY NOT?
YOU'LL CONTACT MASTER, WON'T YOU?
WELL, OF COURSE...
I...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER...
MEL...
YOU TOLD HER YOU LOVE HER, DIDN'T YOU?

nod

WHILE SHE WAS SLEEPING...

I THOUGHT IT'D BE FINE SINCE SHE COULDN'T HEAR ME, SO I SAID IT.
BUT AFTER THAT SHE STARTED ACTING SORT OF COLD...
AND SHE TOLD ME WE COULDN'T SLEEP TOGETHER...

SO I THINK SHE DID HEAR IT.

... IF ONLY I HADN'T SAID ANYTHING.

I'm useless..
drip
I'm a bad girl...
drip
drip
I made-
I made Master worry!

MEL...
YOU TWO,
sniffle
sob
gasp

MARIE... THIS IS THE SAME PERSON FROM EARLIER .
WAIT-
ARE YOU REALLY A POLICE OFFICER?
HUG
OF COURSE.
THEN PROVE IT
IF YOU'RE A COP, THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE ID-
SWING

MARIE!!
BE QUIET.
CHATTER
CHATTER
THUNK
THIS ONE'S GOT HETEROCHROMIA.
SHE'LL FETCH A GOOD PRICE.

MARIE!
SHUT UP!
DO WHAT YOU LIKE WITH ME. .
BUT LET MEL GO...
VERY BRAVE.
SMIRK
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT.
OI, HAND ME THE BAG.
KICK
KICK
CHOMP
OW!
SOMEONE! SOMEONE HELP!
MASTER!

WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE!?

TCH...
TURN
RUN
LET'S GO.

Kidnappers?
what
MURMUR
MURMUR

NEVER MIND THE HOSPITAL, GO BACK TO THE MANOR
WE TRUST OUR DOCTOR AND HE'LL COME RIGHT AWAY

slam

VRRRR

...MOVE ASIDE

MEL!

MEL!

THE DOCTOR?
HE'S ON HIS WAY.
CARRY HER CAREFULLY

MARIE,
thunk
thunk

WE'VE DONE SOME TEMPORARY CARE FOR YOUR HEAD WOUNDS,
AND THE DOCTOR IS ON THE WAY, SO DON'T WORRY.

. WHAT ABOUT MEL?

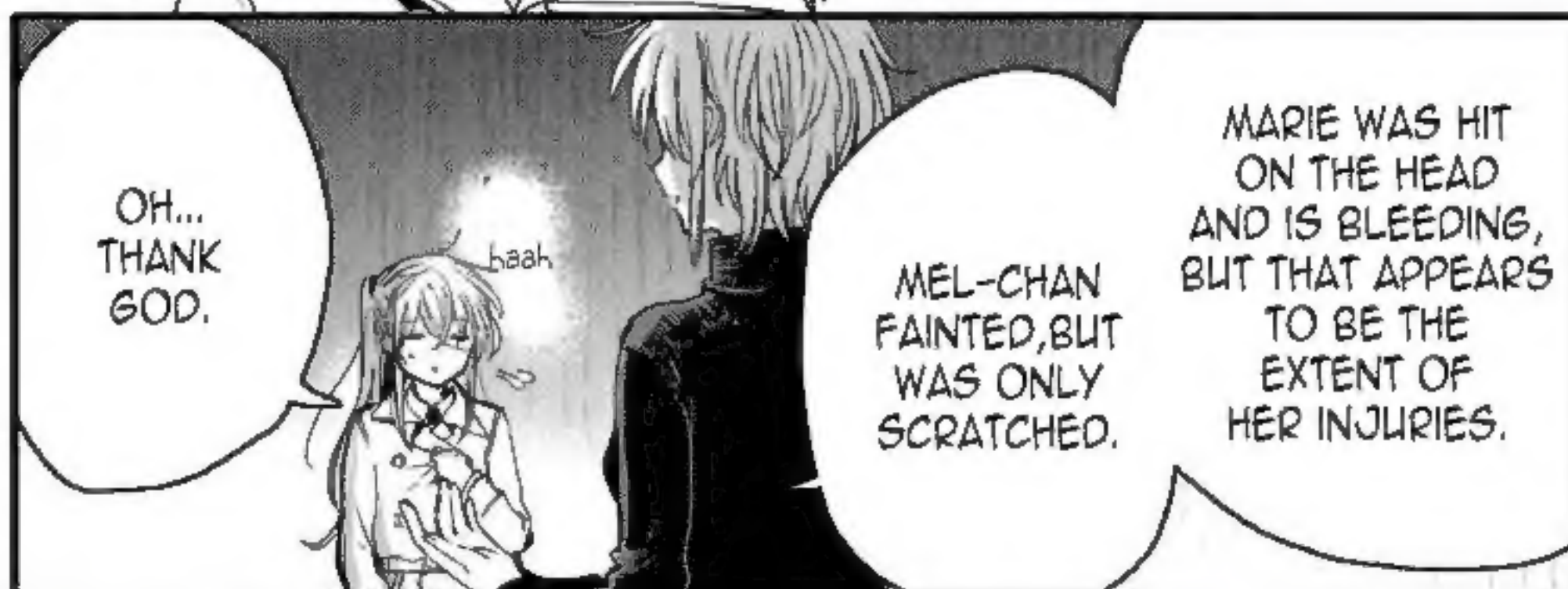
She fainted.
But she appears mostly uninjured.
Oh...
sigh
Good.

SCREECH

click

THE POLICE SAID THEY WERE BROUGHT HERE...

STELLA, HOW ARE THEY?

MARIE WAS HIT ON THE HEAD AND IS BLEEDING, BUT THAT APPEARS TO BE THE EXTENT OF HER INJURIES.

MEL-CHAN FAINTED, BUT WAS ONLY SCRATCHED.

haah

OH... THANK GOD.

I WAS SEARCHING FOR MEL... BUT IT SEEMS THE POLICE WERE A STEP AHEAD.

CAN YOU SHOW ME TO MEL'S ROOM?

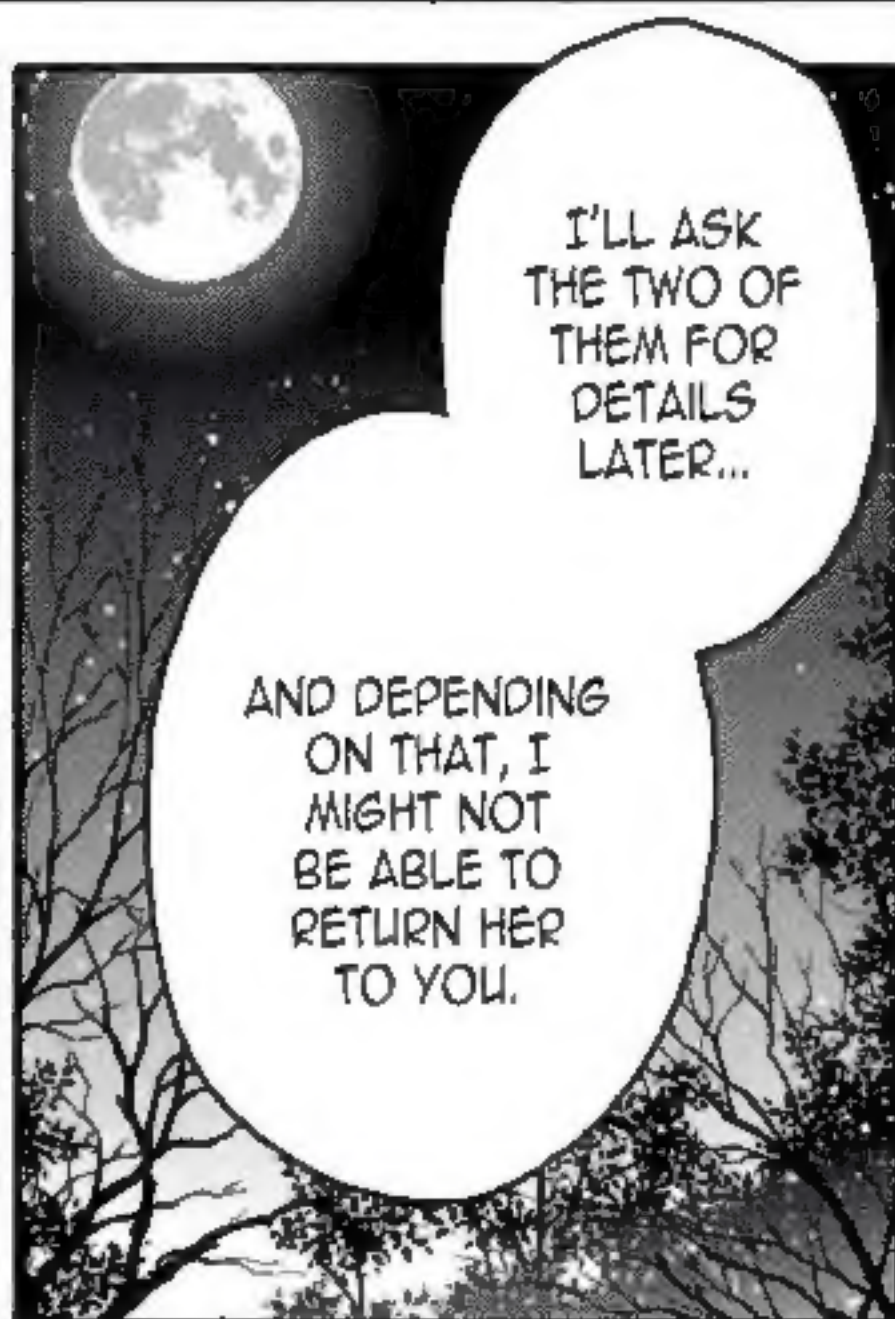
NO.

RIGHT NOW, I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO SEE MEL.

MARIE TOLD ME NOT TO LET YOU GET CLOSE TO MEL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN-

WHA!?

WHY YOU-
glare

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN YOUR FRIEND,
SMILE

I'LL ASK THE TWO OF THEM FOR DETAILS LATER...
AND DEPENDING ON THAT, I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN HER TO YOU.

SO PLEASE ACCEPT IT.

STELLA, WAIT!

MEL'S MASTER

IS ME!

WHO MEL'S MASTER IS...

THAT'S FOR MEL TO DECIDE.

SFX: SHUT

CHAOSTEAM CREDITS
TRANSLATION:
Schuyguy
CLEANING:
Alextasha/Shinigami Soumiasan
TYPESETTING:
Hime Aihara/Shinigami Soumiasan
Raws:
Cy Dup
QC:
Buding